

Message Text

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72

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 EA-11 NIC-01 CIAE-00 PM-07

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15

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H-03 INT-08 LAB-06 NSC-07 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08

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AMEMBASSY BONN

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TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJ: YURI ZHUKOV ON DETENTE AND ITS DETRACTORS

1. SUMMARY: PRAVDA OBSERVER YURI ZHUKOV, APPARENTLY
BUOYED BY TOILISI SESSIONS OF DARTMOUTH CONFERENCE,
MAKES A STRONG CASE FOR PURSUING DETENTE WITH THE
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WEST, ESPECIALLY THE U.S. LIKE BREZHNEV, HE

PROFESSES NOT TO BE SURPRISED BY OPPOSITION TO DETENTE AND HE EXPECTS PRESIDENT NIXON'S VISIT TO BE NEW STEP FORWARD IN MAKING THE PROCESS IRREVERSIBLE. ZHUKOV TENTATIVELY WELCOMES BRZEZINSKI TO CAMP OF THOSE WHO RECOGNIZE INEVITABILITY OF DETENTE. END SUMMARY.

2. VETERAN POLITICAL OBSERVER YURI ZHUKOV, WHO PLAYED LEADING ROLE IN RECENTLY CONCLUDED DARTMOUTH CONFERENCE IN TBILISI, FILLS A QUARTER PAGE IN PRAVDA MAY 3 WITH HIS CURRENT THOUGHTS ON DETENTE, PRIMARILY U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS. LIKE VIRTUALLY ALL OTHER MEDIA TREATMENT OF SUBJECT, HE LAYS HEAVY EMPHASIS ON IMPORTANCE OF PRESIDENT'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO USSR AS ANOTHER STEP TOWARDS MAKING DETENTE IRREVERSIBLE. HE SCORNS ENEMIES OF DETENTE FOR "ABSURDITY" OF SUGGESTING THAT PRESIDENT SHOULD BE FORBIDDEN FROM VISITING USSR FOR FEAR THAT HE MIGHT SIGN NEW AGREEMENTS NOT TO THEIR LIKING.

3. ANOTHER THEME THAT COMES THROUGH STRONGLY IN ZHUKOV'S PIECE IS ECHO OF BREZHNEV VIEW THAT EMERGENCE OF OPPOSITION TO DETENTE WAS EXPECTED BY USSR AND ONE MUST STRUGGLE MIGHTILY AGAINST THE NAY-SAYERS. ZHUKOV REELS OFF A STANDARD CATALOGUE OF SOURCES OF SUCH OPPOSITION, INCLUDING IMPERIALIST CIRCLES OF WESTERN POWERS, U.S. MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX, WEST GERMAN REVANCHISTS, NATO GENERALS, ZIONISTS AND ADVENTURISTS OF ALL STRIPES. HE NOTES THAT THE "PEKING SLANDERERS" SING IN UNISON WITH THIS BUNCH.

4. IN ASSESSING THE STRENGTH OF THE OPPONENTS, ZHUKOV NOTES EFFORTS TO IMPEDE U.S.-SOVIET ECONOMIC RELATIONS, SINGLING OUT PROPOSED HALT IN EX-IM BANK CREDITS "WHICH WOULD PARALYZE THE TRADE WHICH IS NOW SUCCESSFULLY DEVELOPING." SIGNIFICANTLY, HE AVOIDS ENTIRELY THE QUESTION OF MFN TARIFF TREATMENT.

5. ZHUKOV SAYS "DUBIOUS PERSONALITIES" INVOLVED IN OPPOSITION TO DETENTE COULD BE IGNORED IF IT WEREN'T FOR UNIDENTIFIED "SOLID FORCES" BEHIND THE SCENES WHO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARE CONDUCTING WELL-ORCHESTRATED, WIDE-RANGING CAMPAIGN. IN ZHUKOV'S VIEW, THESE FORCES ARE DETERMINED AND THEY SPARE NO EXPENSE. IT IS DIFFICULT TO GUESS WHOM HE HAS IN MIND - OR PERHAPS HE HIMSELF DOES NOT KNOW.

6. BY AND LARGE, ZHUKOV AVOIDS AD HOMINEM ATTACKS ON OPPONENTS (ALTHOUGH HE CANNOT RESIST A JAB AT RECENT MATTHEW RIDGWAY ARTICLE IN NEW YORK TIMES) AND

HE EVEN INFERS THAT SOME OF THE WORST ANTI-SOVIET
FIGURES CAN BE REFORMED. IN THIS CONNECTION, ZHUKOV
SAYS "WELL-KNOWN THEORETICIAN OF ANTI-COMMUNISM"
ZBIGNIEW BREZEZINSKI HAS SWALLOWED BITTER PILL OF
DETENTE (A PHRASE COINED BY GUS HALL). HE GOES ON TO
PAY BREZEZINSKI THE COMPLIMENT OF QUOTING AT LENGTH
FROM HIS LATEST WORK ON END OF THE COLD WAR.
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